

Committee on Children
Legislative Office Building
300 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT

Public hearing date: March 3, 2015

RE: H.B. No. 6897 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE APPLICATION OF PESTICIDES AT STATE-OPERATED PARKS, ATHLETIC FIELDS AND PLAYGROUNDS.

March 2, 2015

To the Members of the Committee on Children:

Do you know how wrong it feels to stop two playful boys from rolling down a grassy hill in a park or to want to turn away from a ball field because there is a pesticide application sign posted? Should any parent have to stop these rites of passage? Sadly, I have to in order to in order to protect my children from the unnecessary and harmful effects of pesticides.

Many pesticides are detrimental to the environment, our pets and especially the most vulnerable...our children. Beyond Pesticides website (<http://www.beyondpesticides.org/lawn/factsheets/faq.php>) states "of the 36 most commonly used lawn care pesticides registered before 1984, only *one* has been fully tested and evaluated - sulfur. Health effects of these 36 lawn pesticides show that: 14 are probable or possible carcinogens, 15 are linked with birth defects, 21 with reproductive effects, 24 with neurotoxicity, 22 with liver or kidney damage, and 34 are sensitizers and/or irritants. A child in a household using home and garden pesticides is 6.5 times more likely to develop leukemia than in a home that does not."

It is no wonder that in 2008 the province of Ontario has banned the cosmetic use of pesticides. How wonderful to see the Precautionary Principal in action to reduce to unnecessary human exposure to harmful chemicals.

We need to step up as our neighbors to the north have done and look out for our children. Parks, playgrounds and playing fields should undoubtedly be an environmentally safe place for children. Let's end this age old practice of unnecessary pesticide application. As a mother and as a citizen, I am asking you to **support HB 6897**.

Thank you for your time and most of all your consideration,

Ann Reynolds
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